AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 19 and 23 as follows, and cancel claims 14, 20 and 24 without prejudice:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of identifying a server that is one of a plurality of servers from a client terminal having a browser, a memory device and a processor, said plurality of servers and said client terminal being connectable with each other via a communications network, comprising the steps of:

a) transmitting a first request packet from said browser to one of said plurality of servers for requesting identity of an intended server maintaining a shared data file;

b) receiving the first request packet at said one server and transmitting therefrom server specific information to said browser, indicating the identity of the intended server;

c) receiving said server specific information at said browser;

d) transmitting a second request packet from the processor containing the identity of said intended server to said network for requesting downloading of said shared data file, whereby the second request packet is automatically routed through the network to the intended server;

e) receiving the second request packet at the intended server and downloading the requested shared data file from the intended server to said processor, and storing the downloaded shared data file in said memory device; and

f) transmitting from the intended server to said processor differential data representing a difference between an updated version of said shared data file currently maintained by the intended server and the shared data file that was downloaded in step (e) from the intended server to said processor,

wherein the server specific information transmitted to said browser contains the identity of a second server if said shared data file has been moved from said intended server to said second server.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said network includes a cache memory, and wherein said second request packet contains an identifier identifying said shared data file, said identifier being determined for each access from said processor to said intended server so that the shared data file identified by said identifier does not coincide with data stored in said cache memory.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Previously Presented) A client-server system comprising:

a communications network;

a plurality of servers connected to the network; and

a client terminal connected to the network, the client terminal having a processor, a memory device and a browser, the browser transmitting a first request packet to one of said plurality of servers for requesting identity of an intended server that maintains a shared data file;

said one of said servers being responsive to said first request packet for transmitting server specific information to said browser for indicating the identity of said intended server,

said processor being responsive to the received information for transmitting a second request packet containing the identity of the intended server to said network for requesting downloading of the shared data file, whereby the second request packet is automatically routed through the network to said intended server, said processor being configured to store a said shared data file into said memory device when the same is downloaded from said intended server, and

the intended server downloading shared data file to said processor in response to said second request packet and transmitting to the processor differential data representing a difference between an updated version of said shared data file currently maintained by the intended server and the shared data file that was downloaded in response to said second request packet, wherein said server specific information contains the identity of a second server if the shared data file has been moved from said intended server to said second server.

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Previously Presented) The client-server system of claim 7, wherein said network includes a cache memory, and wherein said second request packet contains an identifier identifying said shared data file, wherein said processor is configured to determine said identifier for each access from the processor to said intended server so that the shared data file identified by said identifier does not coincide with data stored in said cache memory.

10. (Previously Presented) The client-server system of claim 7, wherein said intended server is configured to receive server specific information from another server of the network and transmits the received server specific information to said browser.

Claims 11-14. (Cancelled).

15. (Previously Presented) A method of identifying a server that is one of a plurality of servers from a client terminal, said plurality of servers and said client terminal being connectable with each other via a communications network, comprising the steps of:

transmitting a first request packet from said client terminal to one of said plurality of servers for requesting identity of an intended server maintaining a shared data file;

receiving the first request packet at said one server and transmitting therefrom server specific information to said client terminal, indicating the identity of the intended server;

receiving said server specific information at said client terminal and transmitting a second request packet from the client terminal containing the identity of said intended server to said network for requesting downloading of said shared data file,

whereby the second request packet is automatically routed through the network to the intended server;

receiving the second request packet at the intended server and downloading therefrom the requested shared data file to said client terminal;

transmitting a third request packet from said client terminal to the intended server for requesting differential data; and

receiving the third request packet at the intended server and transmitting to said client terminal differential data representing a difference between an updated version of said shared data file currently maintained by the intended server and the shared data file that was downloaded to said client terminal,

wherein said server specific information identifies a second server if the shared data file has been moved from said intended server to a second server.

16. (Previously Presented) A client-server system comprising:

a communications network;

a plurality of servers connected to the network; and

a client terminal connected to the network, the client terminal transmitting a first request packet to one of said plurality of servers for requesting identity of a server that maintains a shared data file;

said one of said servers being responsive to said first request packet for transmitting server specific information to said client terminal for indicating the identity of an intended server in which said shared data file is maintained,

said client terminal being responsive to said server specific information for transmitting a second request packet containing the identity of the intended server to said network for requesting downloading of the shared data file, whereby the second request packet is automatically routed through the network to said intended server, and transmitting a third request packet to the intended server for requesting differential data, and

the intended server being responsive to the second request packet for downloading said shared data file to said client terminal and being responsive to said third request packet for transmitting to said client terminal differential data representing a difference between un updated version of said shared data file currently maintained by the intended server and the shared data file that was downloaded in response to said second request packet,

wherein said server specific information identifies a second server if the shared data file has been moved from said intended server to said second server.

17. (Previously Presented) A client terminal connectable through a communications network to a plurality of servers, comprising:

means for acquiring identity of a server that maintains a shared data file from one of said plurality of servers;

means for requesting downloading of the shared data file from one of said plurality of servers which is identified by the acquired identity, whereby said one server downloads the shared data file to said client terminal; and

means for requesting differential data from said one server, whereby said one server transmits to said client terminal differential data representing a difference between an updated version of said shared data file currently maintained by said one server and the shared data file that was downloaded from said one server,

wherein said means for acquiring identifies a second server if the shared data file has been moved from said server to said second server.

18. (Previously Presented) A server connectable through a communications network to a client terminal, wherein said server is one of a plurality of servers connected to said network and is identified by an identification number, comprising:

means for receiving a first request packet from said client terminal requesting identity of one of said servers that maintains a shared data file, generating server specific information containing identity of said one server transmitting the server specific information to said client terminal;

means for receiving a second request packet from said client terminal containing the identity of said one server and downloading said shared data file to said client terminal if the identity contained in the received packet matches said identification number; and

means for transmitting differential data to said client terminal in response to a third request packet therefrom, said differential data representing a difference between an updated version of said shared data file currently maintained and the shared data file that was downloaded,

wherein said server specific information identifies a second server if the shared data file has been moved from said one server to said second server.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of downloading a shared data file from a communications network, comprising:

a) transmitting a first request packet from a client terminal to said communications network;

b) receiving said first request packet at one of a plurality of servers via said communications network;

c) transmitting server-specific information from said one server to said client terminal, identifying a first intended server that maintains said shared data file, said server-specific information identifying a second intended server if the shared data file has been moved from said first intended server to said second intended server; ~~and~~

d) transmitting a second request from said client terminal to said network in response to said server-specific information and downloading said shared data file from the one of the first and second intended servers identified by the server-specific information; and

e) transmitting differential data from the server from which said client terminal downloaded said shared data file, and receiving the differential data at said client terminal, said differential data representing a difference between an updated version of said shared data file currently maintained and the shared data file that was downloaded in step (d).

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said network includes a cache memory, and wherein said second request packet contains an identifier identifying said shared data file, said identifier being determined for each access from said client terminal to said network so that the shared data file identified by said identifier does not coincide with a shared data file stored in said cache memory.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein step (c) comprises the steps of receiving, at said first intended server, server specific information that identifies said second intended server when the shared data file has been moved from said first intended server to said second intended server and transmitting the received server specific information to said client terminal.

23. (Currently Amended) A client-server system comprising:

a communications network;

a plurality of servers connected to the network, one of said servers maintaining a shared data file; and

a client terminal connected to the network for transmitting a first request packet to said network for requesting said shared data file,

wherein each one of said servers, which is identified by said first request packet, returns to said client terminal server-specific information identifying a first intended server that maintains said shared data file, wherein said server-specific information identifying a second intended server if the shared data file has been moved from said first intended server to said second intended server,

wherein said client terminal transmits a second request packet to said network in response to said server-specific information and downloads said shared data file from the one of the first and second intended servers identified by the server-specific information, wherein the intended server, from which said client terminal downloaded said shared data file, transmits differential data to said client terminal, said differential data representing a difference between an updated version of said shared data file currently maintained and said downloaded shared data file.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) The client-server system of claim 23, wherein said network includes a cache memory, and wherein said second request packet contains an

identifier identifying said shared data file, said identifier being determined for each access from said client terminal to said network so that the shared data file identified by said identifier does not coincide with data stored in said cache memory.

26. (Previously Presented) The client-server system of claim 23, wherein said first intended server receives server specific information from said second intended server that contains the identity of said second intended server when said shared data file has been moved from said first intended server to said second intended server and transmits the received server specific information to said client terminal.